
CROOK COUNTY FSA NEWS

JANUARY 2008



TOWER OUTLOOK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CROOK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
P.O. BOX 1070, 117 S. 21st ST.
SUNDANCE, WYOMING, 82729

OFFICE STAFF:

DANICE CONZELMAN - PROGRAM TECH

SUSAN RASMUSSEN - PROGRAM TECH.

MIKE IDLER – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 – 4:30 (Mon. - Fri.)

PHONE: (307) 283-2870 (Ext. 2) FAX: 283-2170

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

MERVIN PETERSON

DANNY WHITE

LARRY FOWLKES

ROXIE DACAR

COC ELECTIONS

A big thank you to all who participated in this year's elections. Larry Fowlkes will be joining the committee and will serve the producers of LAA1 (the northern third of the county) for a three year term.

DISASTER PROGRAMS

We have been taking applications for both the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), as well as for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). If you haven't signed up yet call our office and make an appointment.

LCP compensates livestock producers who suffered **feed losses or incurred additional feed costs** directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan.1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007.

Crook County received disaster designations for years 2005 and 2006 so therefore, applications will be taken for both years unless the producer is certain that no loss was suffered in one of the years. Producers incurring a loss in both years 2005 or 2006 must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits. A report will be generated after the applications are filed that can assist producers in making this decision.

To file an application you will need to provide your livestock numbers for ALL of the following dates: 01/01/2005, 01/01/2006, 05/07/2006 and 05/29/2006. These are the dates of disaster designations for Crook County. For 2006 producers will need to select just one date in which to file their application. Inventory numbers are needed for cows, bulls, replacement heifers, non-adult cattle over 500 lbs., all sheep, horses, buffalo, goats, etc...

A dollar value is calculated for your livestock feed needs and for the pasture feed loss and payment is based on the lower of these two values. All of your land is used in the calculation with the exception of federal leased land – in most cases. When the application is filed a review of federal lands will be done to determine if they need to be included or not. Additionally, purchased feed (above and beyond normal purchases) may need to be included in the application. As a rule this has only been needed for year 2006 and has only been beneficial to a few applicants. Applicants may want to compile purchased feed receipts in the event they are needed.

LIP – LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

LIP compensates livestock producers for **livestock losses** between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters, including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007.

CDP – CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Eligible crops are those in which the applicant had coverage with either a crop insurance policy or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Crops that suffered a loss but did not receive an indemnity payment through crop insurance or NAP (because loss threshold was not met) may still be eligible for CDP benefits. The application process is fairly simple for the applicant. The data for both types of crops, (insurance and NAP) is available in the county office and generally requires that the information be verified and the applications printed. Some situations occur where all of the data is not present and the applicant will need to provide production records to complete the application for some crops. Most of you provide your crop production to our office shortly after you harvest or at the next year's crop reporting season so we usually already have this information. When visiting the office you may want to bring your production records if you haven't filed them just in case they are needed to complete your applications.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Coverage on 2008 NAP spring crops is available until April 1, 2008 on the following crops: All spring planted hay crops including, wheat, barley, oats, millet, sorghum, etc...

2007 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The 2007 Census of Agriculture has been mailed out to producers across the country. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census covers virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. By filling out the 2007 Census, Wyoming ranchers and farmers are investing in the future of agriculture by providing a strong and unified voice about their needs and concerns. Their responses will provide law makers, government organizations, town planners and individual farm operations with valuable information used to plan for services, facilities and other investments to benefit agriculture and their local communities. Wyoming producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the option of completing the Census on-line through a secure website. Regardless of how they report, producers are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code) that their individual information will be kept confidential. Census forms are due February 4, 2008. For more information call NASS at (307) 432-5600 and visit with Glenda Shepler or visit the website www.agcensus.usda.gov.

LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP)

Producers are reminded that January 31, 2008 is the deadline to file an LDP application for wool/mohair/unshorn pelts that were shorn from sheep or goats or came from unshorn lambs in calendar year 2007.

BREAKING UP NEW SOD

If you will be breaking up new land, sod or very old cropland that has gone back to pasture, you need to contact this office prior to planting a crop. To be in compliance with sodbuster provisions you must notify this office, Farm Service Agency, of the area to be broken out and must file a revised form AD-1026. We will then delineate the "field" boundary and refer the new land to NRCS for a determination of highly erodible. If the land to be broken up and farmed is highly erodible you must comply with the conservation plan developed by NRCS. Contacting NRCS and getting their concurrence to break up this land without first contacting this office to complete the necessary paperwork does not constitute compliance with sodbuster provisions. Producers who violate sodbuster provisions risk becoming ineligible for program benefits through USDA. If you will be breaking up new land you must contact FSA first to start the compliance paperwork. If in doubt about the land you will be breaking up call us. Basically, if you have not been reporting this acreage on a crop report and we do not have it identified as an existing field you need to notify FSA and file form AD-1026.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

IMMEDIATELY...FILE notification of NAP loss forms within 15 days of loss

...Notify county office of direct deposit changes

...Notify county office of farm record changes or management changes

Jan 21...Office closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 31...Last day to file LDP applications for 2007 Wool/Mohair/Unshorn Pelts

Feb. 18...Office closed – Presidents Day

March 31...Last day to file LDP applications for 2007 small grain crops for grain and hay

April 1...Purchase policy of spring seeded NAP crops

ANYTIME...Continuous CRP enrollment

Call FSA prior to breaking up sod (new land) and before planting a crop on sod

For more information on any Farm Service Agency program, visit or call our office, or visit the FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov

Have a Nice Day, /s/ Mike Idler, CED

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

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